

# DISC Newsletter

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## *Inside this issue:*

Employee Info 2

Winter Safety 3

Personnel 4  
Directory

## **DISC NEWSLETTER**

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## An Information Periodical For DISC Employees

### Director's Biography

By: Denise Moore

From January 1996 until January 2002, I held the position of Information Technology Director for the Kansas Insurance Department. This management position is responsible for all aspects of day-to-day information technology operations including managing division resources; developing IT management plans and budgets; researching, acquiring and deploying new technologies; supervising technical staff; administering and supporting networks and telecommunications technologies; developing and enhancing management information systems and databases; and coordinating National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) IT projects. As IT Director, I worked closely with other division directors and internal constituencies to develop IT strategies in support of the department's business goals and objectives to deliver more effective and efficient services to insurance consumers and industry.

Prior to joining the Kansas Insurance Department, I was the Information Center Manager for the

Kansas State Department of Education for seven and one half years. As Information Center Manager I determined need, investigated, and developed strategies for integrating all aspects of the Department's telecommunication needs into an integrated, coordinated communications infrastructure involving computers, communications, multimedia systems and video technologies. The oversight of those technologies, as well as the deployment of new technologies, fell under my supervision.

Other professional experience includes systems analysis, design and programming, paralegal, adjunct instructor, and insurance agency administrative assistant.

I have earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Wichita State University, a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science from the University of Kansas and a Masters of Business Administration from Washburn University.

I look forward to working with everyone in DISC.



## EMPLOYEE INFO

### *January Birthdays*



Mike Rodecap

Tom Heikes

Charlotte Thompson

Cory Jager

Linda Schramek

Janel Johnson

Mary Grace

Carey Brown

Dan Swearingen

Jean Pierce

Bob Bernatis

Jenney Hahn

Gretchen Hefner

Eldon Rightmeier

Rene Arce

## DEATHS

Todd Pettit's Mother-in-law  
Cad Griffin's Brother-in-law

*Please Accept Our Deepest  
Condolences*



# Winter Safety

By: Doug Quinn

Our winters are often times not severe enough to be overly concerned about winter safety, but we all need to be aware of the possible dangers. I know someone whose Father went out to shovel snow one day, and was found dead by the man's wife later in the day. Shoveling snow can be very hard on a person's body, especially if that is the only exercise they have participated in all year.

Take rest breaks when doing any kind of work or physical activity in the cold. Avoid overexertion at all times.

Children love to play in the snow, but do not realize when they are getting too cold or perhaps even close to having frostbite. Make sure they are dressed warm and in layers, and be aware of how much time they are spending out in the cold. We have all seen teenagers at the mall in shorts and t-shirts when it is freezing outside. This is really unacceptable attire for children when they are out in the cold. It may look "cool" but it is too cold for that.

Make sure children have a snack before going outside in winter. The calories will give their bodies energy in the cold weather. Protect your children's faces with sunscreen. Even though the idea of a sunburn in January may seem odd, snow can reflect up to 85% of the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Another hazard of winter weather is driving on ice and/or snow. We all need to be prepared for the slippery stuff and drive accordingly. The first rule of thumb is to SLOW DOWN, and give

yourself more room between vehicles, and when coming to a stop. Even those of us who have 4-wheel drive and can take off easily in snow and go around others who are having difficulty, need to remember we cannot STOP any sooner.

For those who drive pickups, you don't have as much traction as cars, especially cars with front-wheel drive. You will probably need extra weight in the bed of the truck to give you sufficient traction to get around. The best area to place the extra weight is between the rear wheels and the tail gate. You will need something to keep the weight from sliding forward during stops.

If you have to park outside during snowfall, remember to remove snow from more than just your windows. Pay attention to your headlights and taillights as well as your license plate. The last time we had snow during the day I was almost run over by more than one vehicle in a hurry to leave the state parking lot, and had not removed snow from their headlights. I could not see the car or their headlights for the snow cover.

When we think of disasters in Kansas the first thing that comes to mind is Tornados, but actually it is more common to have disasters from water damage and sudden inclement weather. You may remember about six years ago when we had a sudden October snowfall of seven inches, and everyone lost power. Our house was out for three days. Everyone should have a winter disaster plan to follow.

Continued on page 4

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Meeting Our Customer's Needs

## Winter Safety continued

The American Red cross recommends a Disaster Supplies Kit containing the following when preparing a winter storm plan:

1. Extra blankets
2. First aid kit and essential medications
3. Battery-powered NOAA Weather radio, flashlight, and extra batteries
4. Bottled water (one gallon per person per day for 3 days)
5. Extra warm clothing, including boots, mittens, and a hat
6. Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit for your car too

Have a great Winter and BE SAFE !!

## Personnel Chart

Last month we talked about a pictorial directory of DISC. Since then we have seen some Personnel Charts that KDOT has, and Denise Moore would like us to work on the same type of charts for DISC.

These could be printed and posted at each bureau. Unlike the voluntary directory, everyone will be required to have their picture on the chart.

If you have a nice picture of yourself and would like to use that for the directory or the Personnel Chart, let Doug Quinn know and he can scan it for the project.

The chart is a higher priority than the pictorial directory, so Doug will be contacting you to have your picture taken.

Thanks to everyone for your cooperation and interest in these projects.

